



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Maso and Members of the Frisco City Council

cc: George Purefoy, City Manager
Paul Knippel, Director of Engineering Services

From: Brian A. Moen, P.E., Assistant Director of Engineering Services
Shelley Lang, P.E., Traffic Engineer

Date: January 4, 2011

Subject: Consider and act upon an Ordinance to add a construction speed zone to reduce the existing posted speed limit on FM 423 to 45 mph within the City limit of Frisco during the TxDOT widening project, which is contingent upon the acceptance by the Texas Transportation Commission.

Action Requested: Consider and act upon an Ordinance to add a construction speed zone to reduce the existing posted speed limit on FM 423 to 45 mph within the City limits of Frisco during the TxDOT widening project, which is contingent upon the acceptance by the Texas Transportation Commission.

Background Information: FM 423 generally runs in a north/south direction through the City of Frisco with portions of it extending into The Colony and Little Elm. It is currently a two lane undivided roadway that is operated and maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Therefore, the speed limits on this roadway are set by TxDOT based on criteria outlined in TxDOT's "Procedures for Establishing Speed Zones." The most recent FM 423 Speed Limit Ordinance was passed by City Council on June 16, 2009, which set the current posted speed limits on the sections of FM 423 that are located within Frisco.

TxDOT has recently begun a widening project on FM 423 that will widen it to a six-lane divided roadway from approximately 0.5 miles south of Lebanon Road at Steward Creek Road to approximately 0.6 miles south of Eldorado Parkway. This widening project is located within both the City of Frisco and the Town of Little Elm. The attached letter from TxDOT dated December 3, 2010 states that TxDOT requests the City of Frisco to pass the Ordinance to add a construction speed zone along FM 423 to allow the posting of the reduced 45 mph speed limit during the

TxDOT widening project. The letter also states that the construction speed zone established in this Ordinance will be obsolete and the original speed limit will be in affect when the widening project has been completed. TxDOT will conduct new speed studies on FM 423 once vehicles are traveling on the new widened roadway.

This Ordinance will allow the TxDOT contractor to change the 55 mph posted speed limit to 45 mph on FM 423 from Steward Creek Road to 0.35 miles north of Main Street during the widening project. The remaining portion of the widening project that extends north to approximately 0.6 miles south of Eldorado Parkway is located within Little Elm. The Town of Little Elm will also be taking this to their Council to add the construction speed zone to reduce the posted speed limit to 45 mph for the entire length of the TxDOT widening project.

Staff is requesting that City Council provide their approval of this ordinance to add a construction speed zone to reduce the existing posted speed limit on FM 423 to 45 mph within the area of the TxDOT widening projects in Frisco pending approval from the Texas Transportation Commission.

Alternatives: The City Council could consider the following alternatives:

- Approval of ordinance to add a construction speed zone on FM 423 within the current TxDOT widening project area.
- Send back to staff with direction

Financial Considerations: None. The new speed limit traffic signs will be installed by TxDOT's contractor that is widening FM 423.

Legal Review: City legal staff has reviewed the ordinance.

Supporting Documents:

- Ordinance
- Location Map
- TxDOT letter dated December 3, 2010

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends the approval of the attached Ordinance.